

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Gardiner Greene Hubbard, November 15, 1877, with transcript

Railroad Somewhere between Glasgow & Liverpool. Nov. 15th, 1877. Dear Mr. Hubbard,

Your note of the —came to hand yesterday. I shall try to see Varley and shall cautiously approach him as suggested — and if successful we will apply for a joint patent through Mr. Pollok.

I do not know how to obtain American patents from here. Please advise me of Pollok's Correspondent or Agent in this country. If I find it advisable to find out Mr. Pollok's agent in this country — before your answer to this letter can come — I will cable you as follows “Hubbard, Washington — send address -Bell”.

Cable me always as “Graham Bell London — Hubbard”. There are too many Bells to trust the surname alone.

A plan that I suggested to Mr. Preece for overcoming the effect of induction from neighboring wires — has been proved by experiments in Sir William Thompson's Laboratory to be perfectly successful and it is so likely to work a revolution in the way of laying wires for telephonic purposes that I advise you to have Pollok apply for provisional protection at once . It is so important here where hundreds of wires are laid underground in pipes that I shall apply at once for a patent without waiting for American applic.

It is simply — use a return wire in place of the earth — the return wire to be parallel & close to 2 the direct wire. Under such circumstances the induction in the return wire neutralizes that in the other wire & the clicking & crackling sounds in the telephone immediately disappear. We have spent a delightful week with Sir William & Lady Thompson. Sir William & I have made some remarkable discoveries with the telephone —

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& Sir W. is to write a letter descriptive of them to appear in the Royal Soc.'s Transacting — the letter to appear in our joint names.

A.G.B.